THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is being implemented in all the districts of Punjab and in all the districts of Maharashtra.

The funds available with these States during 2005-06 and their utilization is indicated below:

	2005-06 (Upto 31.12.2005)	
STATE	Funds available (Rs. in lakh)	Utilisation (Rs. in lakh)
Punjab	20186.10	11041.12
Maharashtra	68603.29	34447.58

Fund releases for the year 2006-07 are not due yet.

The details of out of school children in the two States as per national survey commissioned by Government of India in 2005 is as follows:

State	Out of School Children	Percentage of out of school children
Punjab	108,754	2.87
Maharashtra	529,295	3.17
ALL INDIA	13,459,734	6.94

It would be seen that percentage of out of school children in the two States is less than the national percentage.

Government of India ensures timely release of Central funds under the SSA and does rigorous monitoring of performance of States/UTs.

National Textbook Council

1396. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Advisory Board of Education Committee on regulatory mechanism for textbooks and parallel textbooks taught in schools outside the system of education has been recommended for setting up of a National Textbook Council to monitor the material produced in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c) whether the proposed Council is going to be under the control of the Ministry or is going to be an autonomous body?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations are:—

(i) There be instituted a National Textbook Council (NTC) to monitor textbooks. This must be independent of any organization involved in textbook preparation, and also be fully autonomous so as genuinely to represent civil society and academia.

(ii) The CABE may set up a Standing Committee, which would be guided by the NTC. The Standing Committee should be empowered to prepare the guidelines and outline the parameters for periodic reviews of the textbooks, to be completed within six months of the beginning of the academic session. Review would examine social content of books as well as assess their standards, relevance and suitability for the age group. These periodic reviews should be submitted to the Government, and widely publicized through the media.

(c) The Committee has recommended that NTC must be independent of any organization involved in textbook preparation, and also be fully autonomous so as genuinely to represent civil society and academia.

Modernisation of CBSE

1397. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which Government have reviewed the role of the CBSE and its modernization programme for general development;

(b) whether it is a fact that recently there have been a number of newspaper items and public relations releases highlighting the new activities of the CBSE;

(c) the purpose of such public relations;

(d) the manner through which the CBSE is improving its own administration and efficiency; and

(e) the steps proposed in this regard to improve the usual functions of the CBSE?